

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY OASD/ISA:COL. DENSON

APPROVED BY EUR/RPM:WROMINE

OASD/ISA:BGLOBDELL

OASD/PAANDE:MR. EINSTEIN

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TO USMISSION NATO PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USNMR SHAPE

USCINCEUR

USLOSACLANT

CINCLANT

USAFE

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MCAP, NATO

SUBJECT: BASIC ISSUES OF DEFENSE PLANNING: STUDY GROUP
MEETING ON AIRCRAFT SURVIVABILITY MEASURES

REF: A) USNATO 1686; B) USNATO 1631 (NOTAL); C) USNATO
1630 (NOTAL); D) STATE 214200 (NOTAL); E) STATE 222718
(NOTAL); F) STATE 44299 (NOTAL)

1. WE REGRET THAT WASHINGTON AIRCRAFT SURVIVABILITY
EXPERTS WILL BE UNABLE TO ATTEND MEETINGS ARRANGED BY
MISSION AT NATO HEADQUARTERS AND LONDON ON APRIL 1 AND 2.

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2. REGARDING MISSION REQUEST, REF A, FOR DESCRIPTION OF SHELTER STUDIES OR MODELS THAT ARE SUITABLE FOR RELEASE TO ALLIES, RECOMMEND REVIEW OF REFS D, E, AND F. REF D AUTHORIZED RELEASE OF BULK OF RECENT JCS STUDY OF AIRCRAFT SURVIVABILITY TO NATO LAST FALL. REF E SUMMARIZED US (OJCS/SAGA) ANALYSIS, OUR MOST RECENT STUDY, WHICH WAS PRESENTED IN BRIEFINGS TO THE USAFE-SPONSORED FORCE EMPLOYMENT CONFERENCE ON 8 JAN 1974, THE EUCOM STAFF ON 11 JAN 1974, THE NATO MC ON 14 JAN 1974, THE NATO EWG ON 15 JAN 1974 AND A SHAPE TEAM VISITING WASHINGTON ON 22 MAR 1974. COPIES OF THIS BRIEFING WERE GIVEN TO THE USDELMC. THE MODEL USED IN THIS STUDY WAS TAC CONTENDER,

A VERSION OF WHICH WE BELIEVE IS IN OPERATION AT SHAPE/STC. REF F POINTED OUT APPLICABILITY OF SGTA STUDY TO DETERMINING OPTIMUM NATO SHELTER LEVELS.

3. AS FOR ALLIES' DESIRE TO EXAMINE SURVIVABILITY TRADE-OFFS, THE OJCS/SAGA AIRCRAFT SHELTER ANALYSIS WAS CONFINED TO AN INVESTIGATION OF THE INCREMENTAL PAYOFFS OF INCREASED SHELTER LEVELS, WITH ALL OTHER FACTORS HELD CONSTANT. NO ATTEMPT WAS MADE TO ADDRESS THE QUESTION OF TRADEOFFS BETWEEN ACTIVE DEFENSIVE SYSTEMS VERSUS SHELTERS. HOWEVER, TAC CONTENDER COULD BE USED TO INVESTIGATE SUCH QUESTIONS, PROVIDING THAT A DETAILED ASSESSMENT OF THE LOSSES THAT COULD BE EXPECTED FROM VARIOUS DEFENSIVE SYSTEMS WERE MADE AVAILABLE IN ORDER TO CALCULATE APPROPRIATE INPUT VARIABLES. EVEN THEN, A PARAMETRIC EVALUATION MAY BE NECESSARY TO DETERMINE RELATIVE VALUE OF THE ACTIVE AND PASSIVE (SHELTER) SYSTEMS. WE HAVE ALSO REVIEWED A NUMBER OF OTHER US STUDIES WHICH DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY ADDRESS THE VALUE OF AIRCRAFT SHELTERS. WHILE ALL STUDIES REACHED CONCLUSIONS WHICH SUPPORT THE FINDINGS OF THE OJCS/SAGA NATO AIRCRAFT SHELTER ANALYSIS, NONE HAS COME TO GRIPS WITH THE TRADE-OFF QUESTION. WE REGRET THEREFORE THAT THESE STUDIES OR MODELS WOULD PROBABLY BE OF LITTLE USE TO AN STC STUDY FOCUSING ON TRADEOFFS BETWEEN ACTIVE VERSUS PASSIVE AIR DEFENSES.

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4. REGARDING UK SHELTER STUDIES, WE REGRET BEING UNABLE TO ATTEND WHEN THE RESULTS OF THOSE STUDIES ARE PRESENTED. THE QUESTIONS OF SHELTERING AND REDEPLOYMENT OF US AIRCRAFT BASED IN THE UK, AS WELL AS SHELTERING AND DISPERSAL OF UK AIRCRAFT THERE, ARE CURRENTLY RELEVANT TOPICS OF CONSIDERABLE INTEREST TO US. WE WOULD HOPE TO BE ABLE TO REVIEW THE SUBSTANCE AND RESULTS OF THOSE STUDIES AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, TO SEE HOW MUCH THEY CORRELATE WITH US VIEWS

AND THE RESULTS OF THE PRESENT SGTA STUDY WHICH CONCLUDE
IN EFFECT THAT:

A. THE SIZE OF THE AIR THREAT TO THE UK COULD PROBABLY
VARY FROM A FEW DOZEN TO SEVERAL HUNDRED SOVIET LRA
MEDIUM BOMBERS;

B. THE PRIMARY TARGETS OF THOSE ATTACKS WOULD PROBABLY
BE US F-111 AND UK VULCAN BOMBER BASES;

C. THE UKADR AIR DEFENSE FIGHTERS WOULD DOUBTLESS GIVE A
GOOD ACCOUNT OF THEMSELVES (AS BEFORE, DURING THE BATTLE

OF BRITAIN), PARTICULARLY IF AUGMENTED BY SOME UK-BASED
US F-4 UNITS WHICH COULD BE DIVERTED TO THE AIR DEFENSE
ROLE, IN ATTENUATING THE EFFECTIVENESS OF SUCH LRA
ATTACKS AND ATTRITING ATTACKING AIRCRAFT;

D. AIR DEFENSE AIRCRAFT NOTWITHSTANDING, SOME LOSS OF US
AND UK AIRCRAFT COULD BE EXPECTED SO LONG AS THE SOVIETS
WERE ABLE TO SUSTAIN THEIR ATTACKS; AND

E. THE MAGNITUDE OF THAT LOSS COULD BE REDUCED
SIGNIFICANTLY--IF NOT ENTIRELY--BY

(1) DISPERSAL OF F-111 AND VULCAN AIRCRAFT DURING THE
DURATION OF LRA ATTACKS, AND

(2) SHELTERING (BY HARDENED HANGARETTES) IN-PLACE AND
AUGMENTATION AIRCRAFT.

5. MOST SIGNIFICANTLY, HOWEVER, THESE STUDIES SUGGEST
THAT THE SOVIETS PROBABLY COULD EXPECT HIGH ATTRITION OF
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UNESCORTED LRA MEDIUM BOMBERS ATTACKING AIRBASES IN THE
UK. WHEN COUPLED WITH THE DEMONSTRATED EFFECTIVENESS OF
HARDENED SHELTERS IN MINIMIZING AIRCRAFT DAMAGE FROM
CONVENTIONAL FREE-FALL ORDNANCE OF THE TYPE AVAILABLE TO
LRA BOMBERS, THIS COULD DETER THE SOVIETS FROM LAUNCHING
SUCH ATTACKS.

6. WE HAVE JUST RECEIVED AND REVIEWED EXCERPTS FROM STC
PROGRAM OF WORK COVERING AIRBASE DEFENSE. WE ARE CON-
CERNED THAT STUDY MAY NOT BE COMPLETED IN TIME, NEXT
SPRING, TO INFLUENCE NATO DECISION TO SHELTER ANOTHER
INCREMENT OF AIRCRAFT IN SLICE XXVIII. MOREOVER WE WOULD
EXPECT TO DEVELOP WITH STC MUCH MORE SPECIFIC TERMS OF
REFERENCE, TO INCLUDE DISCUSSION OF DATA AND ASSUMPTIONS
TO BE USED, BEFORE APPROVING STUDY.

7. REQUEST MISSION DRAW ON FOREGOING IN PRELIMINARY
MEETINGS ON APRIL 1 AND 2 AND PROVIDE ALLIED REACTIONS
TO WASHINGTON. KISSINGER

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